



Wireless Services Weekly



May 18, 2005

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UWIN Governance Board Meeting

By Doug Chandler

The [Utah Wireless Integrated Network \(UWIN\)](#) Governance Board met last Friday. Stephen Fletcher, the State's new [Chief Information Officer](#), was introduced. He spoke briefly about his expectations as the new Department of Technology Services becomes a reality.

Phil Bates, the MIS Director of Public Safety, gave a presentation on OmniLink, a highly successful interoperability project which ties together regional dispatch centers from around the state. Doug Chandler presented an overview of the statewide mobile data project. Steve Proctor informed the Governance Board of the status of the 700MHz Region 41 Plan. There was a lengthy discussion about present and future UWIN projects and initiatives.

The minutes of last Friday's meeting can be viewed on [this link](#).

UCAN Update

By Doug Chandler

The May Executive Committee meeting of the [Utah Communications Agency Network \(UCAN\)](#) was held at VECC yesterday afternoon. Here's a brief overview of what was discussed:

Site Projects

Summit County issued the building permit for the new **Echo Canyon** site. UCAN will start construction ASAP. This will provide coverage along I-80 near the Echo Port of Entry. A preliminary agreement has been reached for **Cal Mountain**, north of Brigham City. Installation at this site should be completed within the next 30 days. The Executive Committee approved up to \$50,000 for a joint-effort with Tooele County to install two new, tandem generators at **Black Crook**.

Nextel Re-Banding

Steve Proctor, UCAN's Executive Director, gave an overview of the [800MHz Re-Banding](#) process which is about to begin. Nextel has set aside \$2.5 Billion in a letter of credit to the FCC. These funds will allow Nextel to reimburse public safety agencies around the country for their costs to move off certain frequencies that Nextel will obtain. Nextel's re-banding plan separates the interleaved spectrum that Nextel and public safety are in, effectively allowing both Nextel and public safety agencies their own contiguous series of frequencies.

Paging

Several agencies have approached UCAN about the possibility of leveraging the UCAN network to deliver a private digital paging service. Jake Hunt, UCAN's Operations Manager, has put a great deal of time and research into the feasibility of such a network. The Committee asked Jake to put together some financial estimates projecting the number of pagers that would have to be in service (collecting user fees) to make a network cost-

recoverable. If your agency is interested in such a system, please contact Jake and let him know: jake@ucan800.org (801) 840-4202.

Re-Broadcast of UCAN System Traffic

A Utah County publication had a web site offering streaming audio of scanned UCAN public safety radio traffic. The board was concerned that this was not only illegal, but could potentially threaten officer safety. Legal comments were requested, and some have already been received. The issue will continue to be researched.

Availability of 700 MHz in Utah

By Boyd Webb - Strategic Network Planner

With the implementation of the statewide mobile data network, in the new [700 MHz public safety](#) allocation, people are starting to ask questions about the availability of 700 MHz channels in Utah. Two years ago, when the [Region 41, 700 MHz Regional Planning Committee](#) held it's first meeting, people were talking about how agencies would never use the new 700 MHz spectrum in Utah.

VHF operations in Rural Utah, and 800 MHz operations along the populated Wasatch Front were the "only game in town." The State of Utah was well on it's way to implementing a new statewide mobile data system in the 460 MHz spectrum and there were no plans to ever migrate to 700 MHz.

To use a well-worn cliché: "That was then, this is now." Today the public safety wireless communications landscape is rapidly changing. With 800 MHz re-banding the line between 700 MHz and 800 MHz is basically gone. New radio equipment manufactured for operations in the 800 MHz band will now also operate in the 700 MHz band. Narrowband migration and the limited availability of radio channels in the VHF 150 MHz band is encouraging agencies that want additional channels to look at the new 700 MHz allocation.

New wireless broadband initiatives for public safety will also use 700 MHz frequencies and adjacent available "whitespace." So with the renewed interest in 700 MHz the question turns back to availability of spectrum.

The 700 MHz public safety allocation was carved out of spectrum traditionally used by television broadcasters and low power TV translator operations. Unfortunately, the FCC failed to clear the band of existing TV transmitters before re-allocating the spectrum to public safety. This conflicted initiative provides no hard deadlines or incentives for high power television operations to vacate the band. Low power translator operations are made secondary to land mobile public safety operations, under the ruling, but require that public safety agencies coordinate new plans with existing TV licensees.

The good news is that Utah has only a handful of high and low power television stations operating in the spectrum allocated to public safety. With careful planning, interference conflicts can be avoided, but not entirely eliminated until the band is finally clear. The bad news is that the FCC continues to accept applications for TV operations in the 700 MHz band with no apparent plans to stop. Public safety entities, in partnership with the Region 41 Planning Committee, need to be vigilant in efforts to oppose new TV broadcast applications that overlap the public safety allocation. A current list of TV stations operating in the public safety spectrum in Utah are presented below:

| County | Channel | Call Sign | Location |
|------------------|----------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Cache County | 68 | NEW | Logan |
| Cache County | 68 | NEW | Logan |
| Morgan County | 63 | K63GY | Lewis Peak |
| Salt Lake County | 64 | K64FZ | Farnsworth Peak |
| Salt Lake County | 68 | K68FY | Farnsworth Peak |
| Summit County | 63 | K63GY | Lewis Peak |

| | | | |
|-------------------|----|-------|-----------------|
| Tooele County | 63 | K2OER | Farnsworth Peak |
| Tooele County | 68 | K68FY | Farnsworth Peak |
| Washington County | 63 | K63AD | Bloomington |
| Washington County | 64 | K64BE | Virgin |
| Washington County | 69 | K69CT | St. George |
| Weber County | 68 | NEW | Mt Ogden |

For additional information contact the Region 41, Regional Planning Committee, Chairperson, Steve Proctor at (801) 840-4201.

A Crappy Day for Price Dispatch

By Doug Chandler

Marjean Hansen manages the [Price Consolidated Dispatch Center](#). She's currently not able to use her office. It has no chairs. It has no desk. It has no carpeting, ceiling, or furnishings of any kind. Marjean's day went down the toilet last Friday the 13th. If you're going to have a crappy day, Friday the 13th works fairly well.

The drama started to unfold Thursday afternoon around 4pm when Marjean was called back to her office by an alert dispatcher who thought it rather strange that it should be raining in Marjean's office. Apparently, an aged water pipe running through the office decided that it just couldn't take the pressure anymore. Several people came to the rescue and started covering computers, printers, and furniture. The flow eventually subsided, trash cans were placed under residual leaks, and a plumber was called for the next day. Four soaking wet people had everything under control. Yep. No worries. Except Friday the 13th was on it's way.



Friday morning, the plumber was able to determine that a clog had caused the pressure to build up to the point of cracking the pipe. As he unclogged the pipe, he immediately learned three very important things. First, there was pressure and a lot of 'liquid' on the other side of the clog, which proceeded to spew all over the office. Second, that weren't no water line; it was sewage. Third, Friday the 13th was a good day to stay in bed.

The pipe redecorated Marjean's office in earth tones for two hours. The Hazmat Team was called in to evacuate the toxic air with large industrial fans. Everything in the office was a total waste. Furniture, electronics, floor coverings, ceiling, and everything else was hauled off. The Department of Health declared that nothing could be recycled and kept because of the high risk of bacterial contaminant. Further, dispatch personnel must now undergo a series of two hepatitis shots (ouch, that's not funny).

Marjean noted that the situation would have been far more critical if the pipe had burst above the actual dispatch consoles. Marjean suggests that all dispatch centers take some time to think about the pipe hazards that might be lurking around their vital personnel and equipment. The Price Dispatch Center has always been considered #1, but on Friday the 13th it was more like #...

Calendar

911 Committee

Thursday May 19, 2005

10:00am - Noon

Rampton Complex

4501 South 2700 West

UHP Large Conference Room

[Web Site](#)

NASTD Western Region Seminar

Salt Lake Hilton

June 4-8

[Conference Link and Agenda](#)

UCAN Meeting

Tuesday June 21, 2005

2:00 - 4:00 pm

VECC

5360 South 5885 West

Salt Lake City

Utah Sheriff's Association 10th Annual Conference and Exposition

St. George Dixie Center

September 11-13

[Conference Link](#)

Editor

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